United States Agency for International Development
San Salvador, El Salvador

Information Sheet

TRANSLATED from Spanish to English

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SNET receives volcanic surveillance equipment

Recently, the United Status Government, through its Agency for International Development (USAID), delivered modern equipment to the National Territory Study Service (SNET in Spanish) to monitor seismic and eruptive activity of the Ilamatepec volcano.

A vulcanologist from the United States Geographic Service (USGS) John Ewert handed over a package made up of three infrasonic sensors, a panel to distinguish seismic activity, ten seismic distinguishers, three oscillators with seismic voltage, three aluminum protectors, lightening rods and voltage regulators. The equipment is valued at over $15,000 and was donated by USAID.

“The infrasonic explosion detection system is designed to receive tiny volcanic explosions which frequently occur before bigger, more dangerous explosions. At the same time, the system helps determine if a volcano is erupting at nighttime, when it’s dark, or when clouds are covering the volcano”, affirmed the vulcanologist.

Similar equipment is used for other active volcanoes, like Saint Helen’s, in Oregon, USA and the Anatahan volcano in the Mariana Islands.

The donation includes seismic telemetric equipment that allows SNET to send radio signals from additional seismic stations to the SNET headquarters in San Salvador.

“Microphones help us confirm if what registers at these seismic stations are eruptions or not. This equipment provides precise data, even at night, when visibility is not optimal,” said Carlos Pullinger, SNET Geology director.

For more information on the SNET equipment, please call USAID’s Strategic Development Office at 2234-1344, or write to Karen Azucena at kazucena@usaid.gov.

Strategic Development Office
United States Agency for International Development
Phone: 2234-1666, Ext. 1344 Fax: 2298-1401
http://www.usaid.gov/sv http://elsalvador.usembassy.gov